

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 23, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 46

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Arambula, Atkins, Bloom, Brown, Calderon, Campos, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Dababneh, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Low, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Mark Stone, Waldron, Weber, Williams, and Wood)

June 23, 2016

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 46—Relative to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 46, as amended, Bonta. Unemployment: Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.

This measure would request that the United States Congress modify the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act state allotment formula to include unemployment rates by race and ethnicity.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Legislature acknowledges that California's
- 2 economy has significantly improved since the Great Recession,
- 3 with unemployment rates down to 5.4 percent in March 2016,
- 4 according to the Employment Development Department. California

1 has added 2,134,400 jobs since the recovery began in February
2 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, The Legislative Analyst's Office notes that while
4 unemployment rates are improving, California still has the second
5 highest unemployment rate in the United States, an indicator of
6 the depth of job loss experienced during the great recession and
7 the size of California's economy; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor, in
9 coordination with the United States Department of Education and
10 Department of Health and Human Services, is working diligently
11 to ensure that states, local areas, other grantees, and stakeholders
12 are prepared for the implementation of the Workforce Innovation
13 and Opportunities Act (WIOA), signed by President Obama on
14 July 22, 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, The Public Policy Institute of California also found
16 that while jobs have been growing for five continuous years, 45
17 percent of Californians believed economic bad times were likely
18 in 2015, while only 44 percent predicted good times; and

19 WHEREAS, Pew Charitable Trusts found that California ranked
20 among the bottom 10 states in bringing people 25 through 54 years
21 of age back to employment. In 2014, 73.6 percent of California's
22 prime working population had jobs compared with 77.9 percent
23 in 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, California's economy generates jobs at a rate
25 similar to the national rate, but it is not enough to keep up with
26 the state's fast-growing population; and

27 WHEREAS, California has also had an uneven economic
28 recovery, with the coastal regions rebounding with more economic
29 vigor relative to inland areas of the state. However, employment
30 disparities continue to persist at a city level even in counties that
31 have high rates of economic and job growth; and

32 WHEREAS, The San Francisco bay area as a region is closest
33 to closing the employment gap since 2007, while county averages
34 continue to hide persistent unemployment among certain
35 populations. In Alameda County, where unemployment dropped
36 to 4.3 percent in March 2016, African-American and Latino
37 unemployment in the City of Oakland is still high at 18 percent
38 and 16 percent, respectively; and

39 WHEREAS, The Legislature recommends that the United States
40 Congress implement a racial equity lens when structuring

1 workforce investment proposal requirements under the WIOA to
2 ensure that unemployment rates are analyzed from multiple
3 perspectives and not only average unemployment rates; and

4 WHEREAS, For every dollar of wealth a median Caucasian
5 household has, a median Asian household has about 81 cents, a
6 median Hispanic family has 7 cents, and a median
7 African–American family has 6 cents. The disparity in employment
8 exists not just by region in California, but also by race; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
11 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature requests that the United
12 States Congress modify the WIOA state allotment formula to
13 include unemployment rates by race and ethnicity. In making this
14 change, no community in California shall receive less funds under
15 WIOA. This change is intended to better reflect the employment
16 conditions in states with high levels of income inequality and bring
17 more funding to address the real workforce needs of the population;
18 and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
21 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
22 Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative
23 from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the
24 author for appropriate distribution.